

512 grain in her mortar or working in her garden near by. On
[143] market days she takes the produce of the family's fields to the
[438] town to sell. If she has young children, she cares for them
[855] while she does her other work, but when they are old enough,
[857] they help her about the house if they are girls, or, if boys, go
with their father to the garden. From time to time, when
house repairs are needed or there are implements to be
mended, the man spends a day at home getting these odd
jobs done; otherwise only serious illness in the family keeps
him from his fields.

512 The times for meals have not varied since the days when
[264] Moreau de St. Mery described the eating-habits of the slaves.*
In addition to the mid-morning repast, the only other meal
is that eaten after the man returns from his field, this being
[562] the largest of the day. A wife does not sit down with her
[593] husband, but usually eats earlier with her small children and
holds herself ready to serve him upon his return, when, if he
is alone, she remains to tell him the day's gossip. Visitors are
[574] often present, for peasant etiquette demands that all comers
[576] be offered food, and, as one Haitian expressed it, "The peasant
would kill you for the insult if you did not share your
meal with him." Bedtime, as might be expected, is early.

512 On Sundays and on the days of festivals this routine is interrupted,
[527] when, if the occasion is of sufficient importance
[796] and the habitation is not too far from town, the peasant and
his family attend mass. On Saturday nights there is usually a
vodun dance, when the early hour for retirement is forgotten
and all-night festivities precede Sunday's rest. On such days
[264] the principal meal is eaten at three or four o'clock in the
afternoon, and all the adults share it together, while at one
side the children are fed from the dishes of their parents in
response to the insistent repetition of the demand "Ba'm
pa'm — give me my portion." *

* This is an example of the elision characteristic of Haitian Créole, it being abbreviated from *Ba main part main or*, in French, *Donnez-moi ma part*.